

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
PUBLIC MEETING ON THE OLNEY RENOVATION
APRIL 2, 2009**

COMMUNITY COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

The public meeting was attended by approximately 20 community residents.

The Library Department, Department of General Services, and the architects (from The Lukmire Partnership) responded to the following comments and questions at the public meeting. Responses will be posted to this document as soon as they are written and reviewed.

General

Why wasn't the new library planned as a two-story building?

Why not demolish the current building on the site and construct an entirely new building?

Couldn't you just extend the current children's area and not have to construct a new wing?

My nonprofit group wants to donate a memorial tree to the new library. Will this be allowed?

Site

Courtyard/Rain Basin

- Will the rain basin have ornamental plantings in it?
- Will people be invited, that is, as a courtyard or patio?
- I associate a library courtyard as a place for people to sit and read.
- LEED function to filter water draining from building's roof

What is the impact of the expansion on the number of parking spaces?

Will the sidewalk between the building and the B. F. Saul property remain?

Will the property be connected to the adjacent shopping center (B. F. Saul property) and townhouse community?

Stress the importance of the landscape view from the sides and rear of the new building.

The main entrance seems very quiet.

The location of the proposed book drop is not good at night; passenger pick-up and drop-off at night is also a problem.

Energy and lighting

Will solar energy provide power to the building?

How will you control glare from light coming in through the glass windows?

What are the solar curtain walls made of?

Interior design

I like the curved wall in the children's area because it highlights the area.

I recommend window seats in the children's area – children like to sit on them.

I want a warm, well-lit and friendly environment in the new building. The current building is too dark.

The wood beam ceilings in the current building are very dark. How will you prevent this in the new building?

I like the lower shelves and additional seating in the new building. Will there be more books than in the current building?

Do you have storage areas for staff and for seasonal books? I don't see much storage area.

Where is the reference area?

Where is the newspaper/magazine area going to be?

Community exhibit space is needed because this is one of the few government buildings in Olney. I don't see any in plans.

Will there be a place for artwork on the exterior brick walls? I like the idea of some artwork there.

Why didn't you plan to have a traditional gabled roof instead of two slanted roofs? Isn't that a waste of taxpayer dollars?

Technology

What have you done to provide for new technologies as the new building ages and technologies evolve?

Did you include additional public PCs in the new building? Whenever I come to the library, all the PCs are in use.

Temporary facilities

It's a shame that we aren't going to have an interim facility while the renovation occurs.

Why can't you have a temporary facility at the Longwood Recreation Center, which is under-utilized?

Don't take any Longwood Recreation Center space for library use. I exercise there several times a week.

Can't you use the empty buildings or storefronts in Olney for a temporary facility?